

Statement in Favor of House Bill 5372

An Act Concerning Dyslexia Instruction Offered in Teacher Preparation Programs

My name is Elizabeth Rickey, and I live in Southbury CT. I fully support HB 5372, An Act Concerning Dyslexia Instruction Offered in Teacher Preparation Programs.

I was trained 25 years ago by Michigan Dyslexia Institute, a non-profit organization, when college courses were rare. With that training, I was able to teach dyslexic students to read and be successful in school. In two instances, I worked with boys who were children and grandchildren of severely dyslexic fathers and grandfathers. One of those boys began college at Texas A & M this fall, and at last report is doing well.

Two factors are significant: 1) I was well trained in appropriate methods to help dyslexic students and 2) I began with these children in kindergarten. Although these two students displayed many indicators of dyslexia and had a strong family history of dyslexia, they never needed to be placed in Special Ed classes. They were taught from the beginning with research-based methods appropriate for their learning needs.

I worked successfully with many students for 25 years including some who were tested and identified as gifted and dyslexic; I chose to highlight these two because they illustrate that, with effective teacher training and early identification, fewer students need to be placed in special education, therefore lowering the cost to the school districts for these services.

We have come a long way in Ct by identifying dyslexic students, and I thank you for that. Please keep us on this good path by now ensuring that teacher training institutions implement, and maintain fidelity to, research-based training methods and practices.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Rickey
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